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16

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/137,659	11/05/98	MARSHAN	E 47726

HM22/0929

PETER F CORLESS
DIKE BRONSTEIN ROBERTS & CUSHMAN
130 WATER STREET
BOSTON MA 02109

EXAMINER
LEFFERS JR, GART UNIT
1636PAPER NUMBER
6

DATE MAILED:

09/29/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/187,669	Applicant(s) Marban, Eduardo
	Examiner Gerald G. Leffers Jr.	Group Art Unit 1636

Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire one month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims 1-31 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

-- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES --

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-15, 29-31, drawn to methods of detecting potential drug targets and predicting the effects of candidate drug compounds, classified in class 435, subclasses 6, 463.
- II. Claims 16-28, drawn to modifying the conducting properties of an ion channel to determine its capacity as a drug target or its capability to reproduce a cardiac arrhythmia phenotype in culture, classified in class 435, subclasses 375, 6, 463 .

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The inventions of Groups I-II are biologically and functionally different and distinct from each other and thus one does not render the other obvious. The methods of Group II comprise steps which are not required for or present in the steps of the Group I: modification of a nucleic acid segment encoding an ion channel protein and detection of an altered ion current due to expression of an altered ion channel (Group II). The end results of the methods of the two Groups are different: detection of potential drug targets and prediction of the effects of candidate drug compounds against potential drug targets (Group I) and modification of the properties of an ion channel in order to determine its suitability as a drug target and to reproduce a cardiac arrhythmia phenotype (Group II). Thus, the operation, function and effects of these different

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methods are different and distinct from each other. Therefore, the inventions of these different, distinct groups are capable of supporting separate patents.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and because the non-patent literature search required for Group II is not required for Group I (e.g. ion channel proteins, cardiac arrhythmia, etc.), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

A telephone call was made to Peter Corless on 7/20/00 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Conclusion

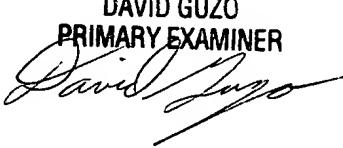
Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1636 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)). The official fax telephone numbers for the Group are (703) 308-4242 and (703) 305-3014. NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald Leffers, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 308-6232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from about 9:00 AM to about 5:30 PM. A phone message left at this number will be responded to as soon as possible (usually no later than 24 hours after receipt by the examiner).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. George Elliott, can be reached on (703) 308-4003.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

DAVID GUZO
PRIMARY EXAMINER


RAZ
G. Leffers, Jr.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1636

September 27, 2000